

Photo by Airman 1st Class Ali Flisek

Special Forces 101

Dozens of people fill the bleachers prior to the opening remarks made by Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, at the SOF Family Fest, March 19. This was the first year for the event, which was created to help educate families of Special Operations Airmen on the role and mission of Spec Ops. For more information, see Page 14.

Base aircrews honored with safety awards

By Vanessa Adame
Public Affairs

Three Hurlburt Field aircrews were recognized with distinguished safety aircrew awards at a ceremony Monday for their actions which prevented the potential loss of an aircraft and aircrew members.

Dozens of service members crowded the bleachers inside Eason Hangar for the awards presentation led by Maj. Gen. John Folkerts, Air Force Special Operations Command vice commander.

General Folkerts congratulated the Airmen, whom he said "made all the right decisions" in a few crucial moments that probably

saved an aircraft and those in it.

Master Sgt. Shawn Hammond, 18th Flight Test Squadron, and 1st Lt. Scott McPherson, 16th Special Operations Wing, were among the recipients honored with the prestigious safety award for their actions in September 2003.

Sergeant Hammond and Lieutenant McPherson were aboard an MH-53 PAVE LOW during a routine instrument proficiency sortie at Hurlburt Field. On final approach over the Gulf of Mexico, one of the dampers on the main rotor failed. Despite the failure, the crew continued their approach to land. Just miles from landing, the isolation housing for the same blade failed-creating a much more serious situation. The crew faced the possible loss of a tail rotor which would force them to crash into the gulf. Sergeant Hammond and Lieutenant McPherson managed to make a clear landing while preventing the loss of a \$35 million aircraft and the lives of three Airmen.

Cpts. Mike Mitchell and Mark Chapin, 8th Special Operations Squadron, Tech. Sgt. Luke Singletary, 18th Flight Training Squadron, Staff Sgt. Jimmie Taylor and Captain William Julian, 14th WPS, were also recognized as distinguished aircrew members for an incident in January 2004 when their MC-130E Combat Talon-flown by a combined reserve

See **AWARDS**, Page 7

Commando history retold

2nd Lt. Amy Gonzales
Public Affairs

Blue jeans and long hair- it isn't a typical duty uniform for Airmen. However, the Butterfly and Raven forward air controllers of the Vietnam War weren't day-to-day Airmen.

"If you watch TV, you might see what they call war stories. We have the original war stories here tonight," said Colonel O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander as he kicked off the third installment of the "Through the Eyes of a Commando" living history lecture series here March 16.

The speakers included retired Lt. Col. Jerry Klingaman and retired Chief Warrant Officer 3rd Class Dr. Charlie Jones.

Doctor Jones joined the Air Force in 1950 and was assigned to the 6th Troop Carrier Squadron during the Korean War. Four years later, he joined the Combat Control Team at Donaldson Air Force Base, S.C. In 1962, he volunteered a third time for a classified project called Jungle Jim.

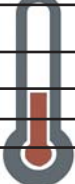
The revealing question, "Do you accept that you'll be put in civilian clothes in a foreign land, and the United States will deny you if you get captured?" convinced Doctor Jones to secretly begin training as a FAC.

"At that time, it was heresy for enlisted men to call in air strikes," said Doctor Jones.

After his training, he went behind enemy lines in Southeast Asia, where he performed tasks such as constructing forward landing strips and guiding aircraft to strike targets. He and other Butterflies used rudimentary means such as flashlights and Dixie cups to guide the aircraft. Despite unsuccessful attempts to communicate with aircraft, he flew about 400 combat missions during the

See **HISTORY**, Page 7

2005 Air Force Assistance Fund

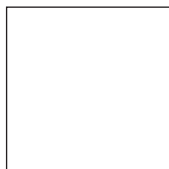
100%	\$116,427		Four weeks into the AFAP campaign, the base has raised more than \$55,252, and reached 15 percent participation. See Pages 12 and 15 for AFAP fund-raisers.
60%	\$69,856		
50%	\$58,213		
25%	\$29,107		
8.6%	\$10,016		

The Commander's Open Line is your direct line to me for questions or suggestions about subjects of concern to the Hurlburt Field community.

I really appreciate your feedback. To receive a response, call 884-OPEN (6736) or e-mail your concerns to commando@hurlburt.af.mil. Be sure to include your name, unit and telephone number.

Open lines of general interest will be printed in the COMMANDO. I'll answer the others by letter or a phone call.

However, the quickest and most efficient way to resolve a problem is to talk directly to the agency responsible. This gives them an opportunity to help you and perhaps improve their process.



Col.
O.G. Mannon

Base makes strides in hurricane recovery, faces financial restraints across Air Force

By Col. O.G. Mannon
16th SOW commander

I've always contended that Hurlburt Field is one of the Air Force's showplaces not only from the facilities aspect, but from the professional Airmen serving here.



When I returned from supporting deployed operations recently, I was reminded of just how special this "air patch" is.

The pride Team Hurlburt shares for our base is evident in every lawn, building and park. While this is what we strive for, it also shows we have triumphed over the devastation left behind by Hurricane Ivan only six short months ago.

We've made tremendous strides toward complete recovery thanks to yeoman's work from many agencies, but particularly from the civil engineer and contracting squadrons. To date, approximately 95 percent of military housing roofs and interiors have been repaired, and work at the child development center is expected to be completed by the beginning of May. The aircraft wash rack is fully repaired and used every day. Several teams of contractors are hard at work on the Soundside as we speak. Repairs and clean-up to our family camp are complete, and we expect the nature trail to be open soon. The marina pier and walkway repairs should also be complete in mid-May. Thanks for your patience thus far, and we ask for your contin-

ued understanding just a little longer as the repairs move forward to completion.

As we finally complete repairs resulting from Ivan, it's hard to comprehend the 2005 hurricane season is rapidly approaching. Our repair efforts have renewed our facilities but at the same time reinforced them to prevent damages in future storms. From the family perspective, it's time to start preparation now for your family's safety. Brush off your lessons learned from last year's efforts, renew your hurricane supply kit and revise your evacuation plan.

While Mother Nature presents natural challenges for us, our community also faces challenges from other fronts. As I'm sure you've heard by now, the Air Force is in the midst of a financial belt-tightening like we haven't seen in the last two decades. Each of us will see those effects resonate throughout all base functions. For example, contract lawn services for locations like the Air and Community Parks will be cancelled. Tuition assistance funding will also be cut by varying degrees. However, we ask for your patience and understanding as our Air Force realigns funding to support our Airmen in the front lines of the war on terror.

Perhaps no one in the Air Force knows that mission better than our own Air Commandos and Special Tactics personnel here. To the families of those who are deployed, we assure you your loved ones are doing great work - tremendous progress is being made every day.

Your sacrifices at home are paying great dividends in theater as the democratic movement continues to spread throughout the Middle East.

We also must remember those Airmen at home who may need a wingman. The low density, high demand aspect of special operations brings with it extraordinary challenges to our people. These challenges create stress on our Airmen and their families. Keep your antennae tuned for teammates who may need a hand in resolving some of the stress they are experiencing. If you suspect someone is having transition difficulties, offer your help first, then make sure all levels of supervision are aware of the situation. Our family support center and behavioral health clinic are available to help Airmen cope with whatever issues are affecting them - please take advantage of these great resources.

The Air Force Assistance Fund is another tool assisting our Airmen in times of need. Many families benefit from the four agencies supported by the fund. At Hurlburt Field, we received more than \$400,000 in disbursements during 2004 alone. I encourage all of you to contribute what you can afford to this campaign. We really need your help to ensure these funds are there when our Airmen and their families need them.

Thank you for all you do every day. We're members of the greatest Air and Space force in the world, and it's because of professionals like each of you who set new standards of excellence every day.

Selective Re-enlistment Bonus drops to 32 specialties

WASHINGTON - Air Force officials made significant changes to the selective re-enlistment bonus program as a result of continuing force-shaping efforts.

Based on the findings of a review in October, officials have published the latest list, which contains 32 Air Force specialties, down from 62. The new list is effective now. However, decreased and deleted bonuses will take effect April 23.

"We updated the SRB list to match our current force-shaping objectives and fiscal limits," said Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Lavender, Air Force superintendent of accessions and retention bonus programs.

All enlisted career fields were reviewed, including those with special duty and reporting identifiers. The criteria used for determining which enlisted fields remained on the list included current and projected manning levels, re-enlistment trends, career field force structure changes, and career field stress levels. Bonuses are authorized by half-point increments in three re-enlistment zones for Airmen with 17 months to 14 years of service.

For more information, view the new list at: www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlskills/Reenlistments/reenlistments.htm. (AFPN)

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Submitting articles

The deadline for submissions to the COMMANDO is 4 p.m. Wednesday for briefs the week prior to publication. Articles may be submitted on IBM format computer disk or via electronic mail. Non-electronic submissions must be typed, double-spaced. All submissions must include the name and telephone number of a person to call for questions.

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DUI Tracker

March 18 - 24: 2 DUI

This year: 5

DUIs for 2004: 42

Last DUI: 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, March 19

Don't Drink and Drive. Call AADD at 884-8844

Potential saves this year: 139

16th OG...32

16th MXG...5

16th MSG...10

16th MDG...98

Individual groups get a down day for 60 consecutive days without a DUI. Totals are current as of March 24.



Airmen warned against stress-induced accidents

By Senior Airman Heidi Davis
Public Affairs

In an effort to address the correlation between negative stress affecting Special Operations Airmen and suicide attempts, the 16th Special Operations Wing commander held suicide prevention briefings Monday.

Col. Carroll Greene, Air Force Special Operations Command operational psychology chief, spoke to hundreds of Airmen at Eason Hangar, providing insight to the risks and symptoms of negative stress that could potentially lead to life-threatening mishaps.

Because Special Operations has a high ops tempo, many Airmen think it's deployed Airmen who have the most stress, Colonel Greene said. However, it's those who are left behind to address the mission on the home front who face a greater risk of stress-related injuries or fatalities.

"When Airmen are deployed in response to the Global War on Terrorism, they have a feeling of significance and pride for their work as Airmen," he said. "For those who are at home, they don't always feel significant

or appreciated. For this reason, stress levels may be higher at home than abroad."

Surprisingly, more Airmen were killed at home in vehicle accidents on U.S. Highway 98 than those killed in Iraq in the past three years, said Colonel Greene. Many of the accidents were caused by drivers who experienced disassociated episodes or lacked situational awareness.

"How many times have you looked left, then right, then at the stop sign, and it wasn't until you looked left again that you saw a truck only a few yards from you? Did you ask yourself, 'Why didn't I see that truck the first time?'" Colonel Greene said. "It's because stress impacts your ability to remain situationally aware of what's going on around you.

"Or how many times have you driven for a few minutes, allowing your mind to wander and all of a sudden, you reach your destination and have no idea how you arrived?" he said. "That disassociated awareness can lead to fatal vehicle accidents."

At times, it may be difficult to realize the level of one's stress depending on their personality type, Colonel

Greene said. But, there are particular symptoms for each personality type.

"Aggressive persons may be more irritable, tense or high strung when stress levels are at their highest," Colonel Greene said. "Passive persons tend to be more withdrawn, unable to concentrate and depressed. Most, despite their personality type will experience headaches, back pain, trouble sleeping and impaired performance."

Although it's important to recognize these symptoms, it's even more important to provide yourself an outlet to relieve the stress.

"Some of the best ways to release stress are taking vacations or breaks, talking to someone, sharing the workload, exercise and religion. Some may choose alcohol because it subdues pain temporarily. However, subduing pain prevents people from getting the help they need and leaves them more susceptible to suicidal thoughts."

"There's not a single person who doesn't face stress-related problems," he said. "That's why we need to take care of each other. It's not the Air Force that takes care of people-it's Airmen taking care of Airmen."

Spotlight

on...

Senior Airman Richard Hawkins

Duty Title: Mission systems journeymen

Organization: 16th Component Maintenance Squadron

Hobbies: Playing video games, watching Ultimate Fighting Championship

Contribution to the mission: Airman Hawkins is assigned to AC-130H Spectre Gunship Team.

As a mission systems journeyman, Airman Hawkins performs organizational and intermediate-level maintenance activities on APQ-150 Acquisition Beacon Radar, APN-59 Search and Weather Radar, AVQ-19 Laser Targeting Designator/Ranger and associated avionics communication and sensor systems to determine the scope of repair required.

He repaired two APQ-150 Beacon Acquisition Radar Control Indicators red streaks within one hour, guaranteeing on-time Gunship launches. His outstanding technical expertise provided AC-130H/MC-130H quick turns at mission effectiveness rate.

(Editor's Note: The Commando highlights Airmen, junior NCOs, company grade officers, Department of Defense civilians and volunteers in units who do a great job, and should receive day-to-day recognition. Supervisors can call the 16th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs Office at 884-7464 for more information on nominating an individual for the "Spotlight on..." column.)

USAF Honor Guard visits base, searches for new members

By Airman 1st Class James Dickens
Public Affairs

More than 100 base personnel attended the Air Force Honor Guard recruiting briefing March 17 at the Aderholt Fitness Center to learn the in's and out's of how to join the Air Force Honor Guard.

"The briefing included all the requirements and information on how to become an Air Force ceremonial guardsman," said Staff Sgt. Luis Lozano, 16th Logistics Readiness Squadron.

The AF drill team also performed for the crowd that gathered to attend the briefing.

"The performance was one of the best that I've ever seen by a drill team," Sergeant Lozano said. "It was amazing to get a chance to see them perform. They usually only perform at major functions, so it was an honor to see them here on Hurlburt."

Hurlburt Field Honor Guard's very own Senior Airman Odis King, 16th Helicopter Maintenance Squadron, was recently accepted to join the elite team of AF guardsmen, after

applying to the prestigious group.

"This wasn't Airman King's first honor, he was also named the Hurlburt Field Honor Guard 2004 Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Dickens Ceremonial Guardsmen of the Year, March 15," said Tech. Sgt. Terry Carson, Honor Guard NCO in charge.

Airman King was also one of two Hurlburt Field members and one of 15 Air Force Honor Guard members who participated in President George Bush's inauguration in January and the former Secretary of the Air Force's resignation ceremony.

"It's an extreme honor to be accepted to the Air Force Honor Guard, but I couldn't have done it without all the support from my squadron or the Hurlburt Field Honor Guard," Airman King said. "The program here at Hurlburt is one of the best in the AF, and I'll miss it a lot."

The Hurlburt Field Honor Guard is always looking for sharp, motivated E-1s thru E-5s who are willing to be Hurlburt Field's ambassadors for the Air Force said Sergeant Carson.

For more information about the AF Honor Guard or the Base honor guard, call Sergeant Carson at 884-7583.

AF officials require myPay for civilians

WASHINGTON - Air Force civilian employees will be required to use the myPay system to access their leave and earning statements beginning Thursday.

The change brings Air Force civilians in line with active duty and Reserve component Airmen who are already required to access their pay data online.

Hard-copy statements will no longer be mailed.

Printing and mailing costs are some reasons for the change, officials said. But, the primary goal is to provide people with more services and quicker access in an on-line format.

There are numerous advantages to using myPay. Civilian users can view and print their last 26 pay statements; change allotments, direct deposit or tax withholding information; and buy savings bonds. Users may also view and

print their W-2 tax forms.

Officials say one major advantage is availability. Information may be viewed or changed from any computer with an Internet connection 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The myPay system can be found at www.dod.mil/dfas/myPay. New users must establish a personal identification number.

For more information, visit the Web site or contact the local accounting and finance office. (AFPN)

Making mark on base

Name and rank: Senior Airman
Melissa Dawson
Organization: 16th Comp-
oent Maintenance Squadron

Hometown: Clarksburg, W.V.
Hobbies: Sports, (basketball,
football) and swimming

Contribution to the mission:
As a mission systems journeyman,
she's responsible for performing
organizational and intermediate-
level maintenance activities on
assigned weapon systems, and conduct isochronal
inspections on MC-130H fixed wing aircraft. Repairs,
troubleshoots, boresights, performs isochronal inspec-
tions on AAQ-15 Infrared Detection Set system, APQ-
170 Terrain Following Radar and associated aircraft
avionics systems. Performs overhaul, inspection,
alignment, repair and modification of system compo-
nents and all associated support equipment. She also
has performed two years with the Hurlburt Field
Honor Guard.

Melissa
Dawson

Name and rank: Staff Sgt. Jessie
Rood

Organization: 16th CMS
Hometown: Cincinnati, Ohio
Hobbies: Fitness, cooking and
recontour

Contribution to the mission:
As a mission systems journeyman,
she is responsible for performing
organizational and intermediate-
level maintenance activities on
assigned weapon systems, and conduct phase inspec-
tions on MH-53J/M helicopters. She also inspects,
maintains, modifies, tests and monitors installed
avionics communication, navigation, APQ-158 Terrain
Following/Terrain Avoidance Radar and AAQ-18
Forward Looking Infrared systems to determine scope
of repair required. She removes and installs line
replaceable units, and tunes, adjusts and aligns com-
ponents for operational efficiency, and also diagnoses
malfunctions using appropriate technical orders,
schematics, wiring diagrams, mock-ups and test
equipment.

Jessie Rood

Name and rank: Tech Sgt. Renee
Stabila

Organization: 16th CMS
Hometown: Denver, Colo.
Hobbies: Arts and crafts

Contribution to the mission:
Sergeant Stabila is a true military
professional with more than 19
years of exemplary service. She is
currently the Propulsion Flight
Support Section chief. Sergeant
Stabila supervises and mentors five

Renee
Stabila

personnel. She manages \$3.5 million worth of special
tools/test equipment necessary to conduct jet engine
intermediate maintenance and Isochronal inspections
on 240 C-130 and MH-53J engines. Sergeant Stabila
coordinates and controls maintenance of 145 pieces of
non-powered aerospace ground equipment worth
more than \$11 million. She ensures daily upkeep of the
flight's consolidated tool kit program. Sergeant Stabila
also manages Propulsion Flight's bench stock contain-
ing more than 1,300 line items, ensuring maximum
availability at all times through continued coordina-
tion with base supply. She controls over 300 technical
orders ensuring data is up-to-date
and properly maintained.

Name and rank: Tech Sgt. Kristi
Lamb

Organization: 16th CMS
Hometown: Tulsa, Texas
Hobbies: Fishing, camping and
spending time with my kids

Contribution to the mission: As
a fuel systems superintendent, she is

Kristi Lamb

responsible for leading and mentoring 54 personnel
performing fuel systems maintenance on C-130E/H,
AC-130H/U, MC-130P/H, MC-130E/H and MH-53J
aircraft. She manages repair facilities worth more than
\$5 million for all fuels maintenance required to sup-
port seven flying squadrons. She also monitors supply
functions involving annual budgets in excess of \$5 mil-
lion.

Establishes production controls, standards and
operating procedures. She interprets higher headquar-
ters messages and directives affecting aircraft fuel sys-
tems. Ensures technicians perform quality mainte-
nance inspections by performing thorough follow-up
inspections. Manages training programs and ensures
highly qualified personnel are available for critical
tasks. She also develops self-inspection checklists and
conducts extensive inspections on major programs.
She also was stepped promoted to Technical Sergeant
December 2002.

Name and rank: Master Sgt. Maria Howard
Organization: 16th Logistics
Readiness Squadron

Hometown: Flushing, NY.
Hobbies: Volleyball, soccer and
family

Contribution to the mission:
Sergeant Howard is a strong and
dedicated leader of people in the
flight and the squadron. She's a out-
standing job performer in all duties
assigned, and selflessly invests time
to consistently volunteer on and off
base to promote camaraderie, team
building and interaction with the community and base
personnel.

Maria
Howard

Name and rank: Airman 1st
Class Samantha Sawyer

Organization: 16th Civil
Engineer Squadron

Hometown: Vero Beach, Fla.
Hobbies: Cooking, swimming,
ballet, aerobics/pilates and meeting
new people

Contribution to the Mission:
Airman Sawyer personally trained
more than 800 base personnel in
Nuclear, Biological, Chemical and
Conventional Warfare Defense
Training. She conducted Full Spectrum Threat
Response staff assistance visits for more than 25 units
across the base.

Samantha
Sawyer

She was critical to Hurricane Ivan prep/recovery,
evacuation of 22 aircraft and more than 20,000 military,
civilian and dependents.

As a core SRC member, she maintained flawless
checklists/logs, ensured effective information flow to
all 37 units. Also, she ensures civil engineers are pre-
pared for wartime missions by conducting Ability to
Survive and Operate training.

She is a key member of Disaster Control Group;
expert in NBC response.

Name and rank: Staff Sgt. Kim
Welch

Organization: 16th CES
Hometown: Tampa, Fla.

Hobbies: Hair styling, wedding
coordinating, mentoring younger
females, Web site consultation,
bridal showers, baby showers, fash-
ion shows and traveling the world.

Contribution to the mission:
Sergeant Welch is an outstanding construction man-
agement engineer. She is dedicated to the planning,
coordinating, executing, and follow-up of civil engi-
neer construction projects at Hurlburt Field. Sergeant
Welch selflessly trains fellow construction managers
and inspectors in computer aided drafting, Microsoft
Office and advanced construction management prac-
tices.

Kim Welch

Women make tracks, history

By 1st Lt.
Jessica Oberlander
16th AMXS

As an aircraft maintainer, I
went on a deployment and
did my job; I did the best I
could to achieve the mission
and look out for my people
and my boss. There wasn't
an attitude of being pretty
good at my job "for a
woman." I either did good
work or not, but gender had
nothing to do with it.

Decades ago, women
weren't allowed in the mili-
tary. When they were, they
were assigned as nurses and
administrative types only.
When career fields like main-
tenance and operations were
opened up to women, a
brave few signed up to join
the "boys' club."

Some of the female chiefs
and colonels I've met are the
first generation of women in
these career fields. They

paved the way - some of
them were spit on, had their
bras snapped, weathered
harassment and sexual
harassment in many forms,
day after day; some endured
stubborn disapproval from
families and coworkers.

But because they stuck
around and dug in, did their
jobs and didn't make excuses
for their gender, women
today have the opportunity
to work alongside men with
minimal, if any, harassment.
Women will continue to
make choices and decisions
that affect the country and
the world on many levels.

The most fantastic thing
I've learned from being a
woman on a deployment is
the very fact that it's not so
remarkable, not any more
special than it is for anyone
else who serves our country.
It was my turn to go and I
am proud to have gone, just
like any Airman.

Women's History Month Trivia Contest Questions:

- 1 Who printed the first copy of the Declaration of Independence that included the signers' names?
- 2 Before the 1960s, farm workers in the United States weren't paid even the minimum wage, and had no influen- tial representatives to fight for their rights. Who was the woman who stepped up and represented these workers?
- 3 As an early American school teacher, I disguised myself as a man and enlisted in the American Army in 1778 as Robert Shirtliffe. I served in the Army for three years and was wounded twice. After, the war, I married Benjamin Gannett and had three children. In 1983, I was named the official heroin of the commonwealth of Massachusetts. Who am I?
- 4 She became the governor of Vermont Jan. 5, 1925, and the first female governor in the United States. What is her name?
- 5 Born Marguerite Johnson April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri. She dropped out of high school and worked as the first black cable car conductor in San Francisco. She became an associate editor for Arab Observer in Cairo, Egypt. She was appointed chair in American Studies at Wake Forest University, N.C. and wrote "Sister, Sister" for NBC. She delivered her poem "On the Pulse of Morning" at the inau- guration of President Bill Clinton, and directed the film, "Down in the Delta." Who is she?

Test your knowledge. Answer these questions and win a fan-
tastic prize. Submit your answers to pamela.williams@hurlburt.af.mil. The winner will be announced at the Women's Luncheon Thursday. Provide contact information.

DTS not available April 5-12

The Defense Travel System will convert to its next production version, Madison Release A, April 8 - 11.

As a result, DTS won't be available to approve or cancel documents from 5 through 12 April meaning the approved and cancelled stamps won't be available for selection by DTS users.


If you booked travel through DTS and your temporary duty assignment starts April 5 - 12, your orders must be approved and ticketed prior

to 4 p.m. April 4.

Any new TDY starting April 5 - 12 must have reservations booked outside DTS and travel is accomplished on verbal orders.

Once conversion is complete, Organizational Defense Travel administrators will be notified to have their organizations resume normal DTS processes.

Questions should be directed to the DTS Tier 2 help desk at 884-5854 or e-mail at 16th Comptroller Squadron DTS helpdesk.



It's all relative

Second Lt. Angela Barrons administers the oath of enlistment for husband, Tech. Sgt. Steve Barrons, 720th Operations Support Squadron, March 10 at his re-enlistment ceremony. Lieutenant Barrons, a former enlisted member, now works at Eglin Air Force Base as the 96th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Operations Flight commander.

Photo by Master Sgt. L.B. St. Amant

OWC
CS/HURLBURT SUMM
572469
5 X 8.00

SUN PLAZA
THEATRE
CS/MOVIES

DOROTHY'S
HAIR CARE
CS/RHP/DOR

ARMED FORCES COMM INC
CS/CALLED UP
572460
3 X 10.00

AWARDS, Continued from Page 1

active-duty crew-prepared for its approach into Canada. Without warning, the autopilot disconnected and the aircraft suddenly pitched down. The pilot immediately took control of the aircraft while engineers and crew chiefs worked quickly to troubleshoot the problem. The radio operator declared an emergency and communicated with air traffic control. Well into their approach, the crew was directed to change their approach to the opposite runway. Battling weather worse than expected, the crew landed safely on the snow-covered runway. Their actions were instrumental in the recovery of the aircraft and the lives of those aboard.

On April 24, 2004, while on a combat mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the crew of an AC-130 Spooky Gunship experienced an in-bore detonation of a 25 millimeter high explosive ammunition round. The gun barrel instantly ruptured and sent fragments in all directions within the aircraft. The explosion caused damage to the Kevlar safety curtain and started a fire above the 25 millimeter gun. The gun also cycled four rounds that shattered and brought gunpowder residue and more fragments into the aircraft and caused the gun deck to fill with smoke and fire. The crew worked feverishly to extinguish the fire and safeguarded the aircraft as they moved munitions from hazard areas before returning to their forward operating base. The crew was chosen as the USAF Chief of Safety Aircrew of Distinction for 2004. Team members are as follows: Maj. Greg Hohn, Rock Tonnaca, Capt. Brian Benningfield, Allen Stewart, David Sloat, Master Sgt. Rick Dardon, Norman Callahan, Tech. Sgt. Jason Nipar, Chad Reed, Richard Elay, Chad Phillips, Senior Airman Ryan Oliphant and Airman Jamie Fredrickson.

The AFSOC Distinguished Safety Award recognizes extraordinary feats of Airmanship which prevented or substantially reduced loss of life, personal injuries or damage to aircraft. It's awarded to crews who've displayed skill and ingenuity in averting an aircraft mishap or reducing the seriousness of a mishap by contending with a critical in-flight emergency.

HISTORY, Continued from Page 1

war.

Another of Dr. Jones' significant contributions to Air Force Special Operations was the introduction of self contained underwater breathing apparatus and high altitude, low opening parachuting technique into combat controller training. Five years passed from when he was performing covert operations in the Vietnam War to the day that HALO, SCUBA and FAC were officially added to the combat controller training regiment.

After completing the Air Force Aviation Cadet program in 1955, Colonel Klingaman earned both his second lieutenant bars and pilot wings. He came to Hurlburt Field and the Air Commandos in 1965.

Throughout the Vietnam War, Colonel Klingaman served in several positions including the Air Operations Center commander and later the air combat advisor at Vientiane and Pakse Laos. As the combat air advisor, he directed AT-28 strike operations by the Royal Lao Air Force and U.S. Air Force. In addition, he had operational control over the Raven FAC aircraft.

After retiring from active duty in 1976, Colonel Klingaman continued to contribute to Special Operations as a senior research fellow at the Center for Aerospace Doctrine, Research and Education and later the professor of Regional Warfare Studies, at Air War College, both at Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. While there, he penned Air Force Doctrine 36, "Foreign Internal Defense."

He currently serves as the director of strategy and plans for the 6th Special Operations Squadron.

The fourth installment of the series is set for May. The topic will be Gunships over the Ho Chi Minh Trail and will feature retired Lt. Col. Bernard Frakes and retired Senior Master Sgt. Bill Patterson.

SAR teams pay close attention to detail

By Senior Airman Mike Meares
96th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. — The military teaches all Airmen to pay close attention to every detail, but for search and recovery teams, attention to detail is not just important, it is a way of life.

If an accident were to happen involving Airmen, the team would be called into action. The team, consisting of at least 26 Airmen, would search the aftermath

of the accident for anything that does not belong. "If something happens, this team goes out and locates any remains or personal affects left by the accident," said Senior Airman Ryan Leveille, non-commissioned officer in charge of the 96th Services Squadron team here.

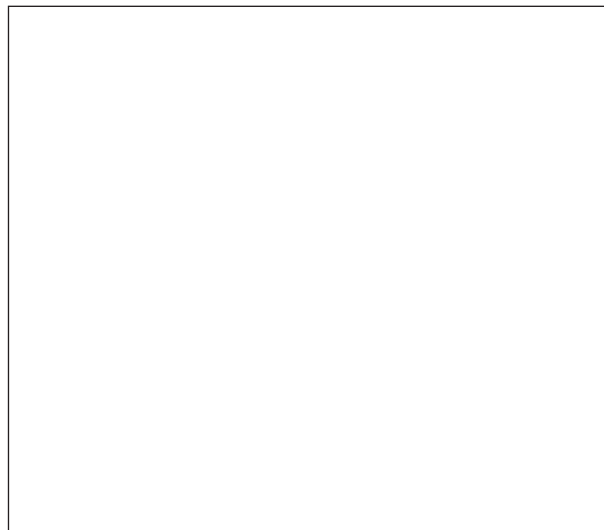
Each team includes a team leader, a recorder, a plotter, a staker and several flankers. The leader designates where the rest of the team will begin the search. Once the team is in a line and spread out about two feet apart, the team begins searching. The leader will control the search line with the word "step."

"The number one thing in our job is attention to detail," Airman Leveille said. "We must find everything the first time out."

As the team advances across a search area, they will record anything they find and mark it with a stake or marker of some sort. The plotter will then mark the finding on a map of the area.

The team has to be "perfect" during an Air Force mortuary case, said Lt. Col. John Williams, 96th Services Squadron commander.

"We strive to be 100 percent error-free," Colonel Williams said. "It has to be perfect before we close the case. We don't want to find some-



Photos by Senior Airman Mike Meares

Staff Sgt. Thomas Johnakin, 33rd Maintenance Squadron, looks through tall grass while training with a search and recovery team here.

thing two to three months down the road and reopen the mourning process."

In striving to be error free, the team will not stop a search until the area has been thoroughly reviewed. The team will search the ground in every direction to make sure nothing is missed.

QUALITY IMPORTS/CAM GRP
CS/TOYOTA
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5 X 6.00

American Red Cross revises guidelines for blood donors

The next American Red Cross Blood Drive is Monday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the base exchange.

On March 21, the American Association Blood Banks implemented new guidelines and forms for the collection of blood and blood products.

The major changes in donor eligibility criteria are in the areas of tattoos and travel.

Persons who have had a tattoo in the previous 12 months are deferred for 12 months from the date of the tattoo application. Individuals with recent tattoos will only be acceptable for donation when the tattoo was applied by a state regulated entity/facility using single-use needles and single-use ink.

The states of Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana and Tennessee are licensing/regulating states. Donors who have had tattoos applied in states that don't regulate the tattoo facility, must be deferred for one year following the tattoo, regardless if sterile ink and needles were used.

The travel restrictions regarding vCJD, also known as "Mad Cow Disease," are being loosened as ongoing scientific studies have lessened concerns regarding the risk of contracting vCJD by eating beef in certain countries. This has allowed the Red Cross to adopt less stringent FDA guidelines relating to donor travel in the United Kingdom and

Previous Deferral Criteria	Deferral Criteria, effective March 21	Change to Previous Criteria
<div>n Cumulative time of six months or more in Europe and eastern Europe from Jan. 1, 1980 to the present</div>	<div>n Cumulative time of five years or more in Europe from Jan. 1, 1980 to the present</div>	<div>n This has changed from six months to five years.</div>
<div>n Cumulative time of three months or more in the United Kingdom from Jan. 1, 1980 through Dec. 31, 1996 or a blood transfusion in the UK from 1980 to the present</div>	<div>n Cumulative time of three months or more in the United Kingdom from Jan. 1, 1980 through Dec. 31, 1996 or received a blood transfusion in the UK between 1980 and the present.</div>	<div>n No change</div>
<div>n N/A</div>	<div>n Six months or more as a member of the U.S. military, civilian military employee or a dependant of either associated with a military base, in any of the following areas during the following timeframes:<div>n From 1980 through 1990 – Belgium, the Netherlands (Holland) or Germany</div><div>n From 1980 through 1996 – Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Italy or Greece</div></div>	<div>n This is a major change from the previous deferral</div>

parts of Europe.

These new guidelines will allow some military donors who were indefinitely deferred to once again donate blood. The typical deferral rate for military donors is 60 to 70 percent, due to foreign travel and assignments.

Reinstatement of donors

Previously deferred donors still must meet all other pre-donation criteria and will have to call the

Southern Region's Donor Suitability hotline (800) 345-7444, ext. 5285, Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and speak with a donor health counselor before they can be reinstated.

Along with changes in tattoos and travel, are new questions during the prescreening process pertaining to your sexual history.

For more information, call Jim Rugh at 884-6107.

Note: Reinstatement of donors can't occur at blood drives.

DFAS changes Web address

Members of the military, whether they routinely use myPay or peruse the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web page only occasionally, should note a new DFAS Web address.

Users are now greeted with the message that <http://www.dfas.mil> will be moving to www.dod.mil/dfas as of March 1.

Those individuals who are linking to or are looking for current information should link to or go to www.dod.mil/dfas.

Users who visit www.dfas.mil as of April 1 will be automatically redirected to the new Web site, as will users who follow links to any page or file at that same address.

There has been no announcement as to when the redirection process will stop. (AFPC)

EFCU ACCTS PAYABLE
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Military

NCOA meeting

Hurlburt Field's Commando Noncommissioned Officer Association, Chapter #44 and Auxiliary #248 are holding their monthly meeting Saturday at 6 p.m. in J.R. Rockers' Destination Room. Each member is requested to attend and bring a friend or another member. For more information, call Master Sgt. Bob Love at 884-2695 or Master Sgt. Charles Glotzbach at 884-7964.

USAFSOS course

The U.S. Air Force Special Operations School will hold the Introduction to Special Operations Course April 19-22 for those who are new to, returning to or professionally affiliated with U.S. Special Operations Command. ISOC provides military and civilian members with a joint understanding of Special Operations Forces to include structure, assets and capabilities. For seating availability, call Joyce Weber at 884-4731. For more information on ISOC, visit <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/usafsos> or call 1st Lt. Brian Wiggins at 884-6861.

JSOU course

The Joint Special Operations University will hold the Cross Cultural Communications Course April 11-15 for all Special Operators who are preparing to live in or deploy overseas, who work with international programs, or have a professional or analytical interest in international studies. For more information, call Joyce Weber at 884-4731 or Capt. Apryl Cymbal at 884-4472 or visit <https://www.hurlburt.af.mil/milonly/tenantunits/jsou/>.

EQUAL-Plus guide

In order to improve efficiency and customer service, the Air Force Personnel Center implemented some changes to the volunteer process for the EQUAL Plus program. Effective immediately, personnel desiring to apply for an EQUAL Plus advertisement must update their volunteer status through the Assignment Management System Web page.

All members must volunteer by updating the six-digit advertisement button on AMS. Volunteering by any other means will continue to be considered, but only as documented exceptions due to technical difficulties with AMS. Members will continue to use MILPDS to update assignment preferences for continental United States and overseas locations as well as for voluntary assignment programs.

Community

AFAF fund raiser

A car wash to raise money for the Air Force Assistance Fund will be held April 1 in J.R. Rockers' parking lot from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations only. For more information, e-mail Master Sgt. Bob Love at robert.love@hurlburt.af.mil.

Christian single's retreat

The Hurlburt Field Chapel's Flying Solo program invites all single Airmen to attend the Emerald Coast Christians Single Military Retreat at the Laguna Beach Christian Retreat Center in Panama City Beach April 15-17. For more information, call John Rice at 803-6584 or Chaplain (Capt.) Richard Anderson at 884-2946/7795.

AF space camp

Hurlburt Field's Youth Center is accepting applica-

tions for the third annual Air Force Space Camp that will be held July 31 - Aug. 5 at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Ala. for youth ages 12-18. The program is open to family members of active-duty military assigned to or living on an Air Force base, Air Force retired, Air Force civilian employees, and active Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members. Application packages are available at the youth/teen center; the deadline is April 6. For more information, call 884-6355.

Travel expo

Information, tickets and travel is hosting Travel Expedition 2005 at the Soundside club April 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission is free and open to government issued identification cardholders and their guests. More than \$12,000 in door prizes will be given away. Approximately 80 vendors from across the country will share information on a wide variety of hotels, cruises and sightseeing attractions. A fish fry is also planned at 11 a.m.; cost is \$5 per plate. For more information, call 884-6795.

Summer Hire Program

Hurlburt Field is in the process of planning and preparing for the 2005 Summer Hire Program, which consists of full-time jobs (40 hours per week) available to students who will be 16 years of age by the work start date May 31. The Air Force Personnel Center will advertise for summer-hire vacancies until April 1.

Students must be enrolled in high school, technical or vocational school, or a college/university and taking at least a half-time academic/vocational/or technical course load to qualify. The summer hire announcements can be viewed at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afjobs. Information on how to apply can be found in the AFPC Job Kit, which is located on the Web site above, or applicants can pick up a copy at the Hurlburt Field Civilian Personnel Office, Building 90210, Room 135. For more information, call 884-5212.

POW speaking engagement

A retired Air Force officer, who spent six years in Vietnam's most infamous "Hanoi Hilton" prison camp, will talk about this life-changing experience at a special event hosted by the Mary Esther office of First Command Financial Planning Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Soundside club. In this story of survival, bravery, teamwork and patriotism, Barry Bridger will share how the prisoner-of-war experience has helped him assess what's truly important in his life. To make reservations or for more information, call Samantha Berens at 581-5000.

Lighters on aircraft

The Transportation Security Administration announced recently all lighters will be prohibited from sterile areas of airports and aboard aircraft to include checked baggage. This is in accordance with the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004. Passengers won't be allowed to have any lighter, including butane, absorbed fuel, electric/battery-powered and novelty lighters.

TSA will strictly enforce this new policy beginning April 14. A traveler may still carry up to four books of matches in his carry-on luggage, however, they'll eventually be added to the prohibited list. For more information, call the Traffic Management Office Passenger Travel Section at 884-6619 or visit www.tsa.gov.

Base housing spring cleanup

A base housing spring cleanup will be held April 2-3 and 16-17 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The self help store will be set up at the marina parking lot, the main base store and Commando Village's RV storage lot. The store will issue 10 plants per household, top soil/fertilizer, red

rubber mulch, pine straw and grass seed. Wheel barrows, rakes and shovels will be available for sign out.

Easter events

The annual egg hunt will be held Saturday at the Community Park at 10 a.m. Different areas will be designated for specific age groups: birth to 2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. For more information, call 884-6355.

Also, an Easter buffet will be held Sunday at the Soundside club. Featured menu items include carved leg of lamb, inside round beef and Virginia ham, chicken Florentine, whole baked salmon, grilled mahi mahi Key West, and traditional breakfast favorites and desserts. Cost is \$15.95 for adults, \$8.50 for youth ages 5-11, free for children 4 and under. Advanced payment and reservations required; call 884-7507.

Lost, found items

The 16th Security Forces Investigations section has numerous items that have been returned as lost, unclaimed or abandoned property. These items include mountain bikes, a child's bike, Lokata Direction Finder, gold bracelet and a Hummingbird VHFS Marine Band Radio. If you feel any of these items belong to you, call the Security Forces Investigations section at 884-7705; must provide proof of ownership to retrieve items.

Tsunami relief fund-raiser

The school age program and Torch Club staff and members are conducting a playathon Monday to help raise money for children and other victims affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami. Members of the Hurlburt Field community who would like to make a pledge for participating youth may stop by the youth/community center, Building 90337, or call 884-6355 on or before the date of the playathon. Proceeds will be donated to a joint Boys & Girls Club/UNICEF initiative for tsunami relief. For more information, call youth programs at 884-6355.

Volunteer

Airman's Attic, Loan Closet

Volunteers are needed to work at the Airman's Attic and Loan Closet. Hours for the Airman's Attic are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; hours for the Loan Closet will be Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Retirees are also encouraged to volunteer. For more information, call Terri Harshman at 884-1533.

APIA Heritage Month

May is Asian Pacific/Islander American Heritage Month. Currently the military equal opportunity office is inviting volunteers to assist in organizing, preparing and supporting the observance period. For more information, call Master Sgt. Cecillio Bartolone at 884-2246.

Classes

HAWC classes

The following classes are available at the health and wellness center:

Diabetes Nutrition - Monday, 8:30 a.m.

Diabetes Fitness - Monday, 10 a.m.

Lean On Me - Monday, 1 p.m.

Healthy Kids - Monday, 3 and 4 p.m.

Fitness 101 - Tuesday, 8:30 p.m.

Eating Heart Healthy - Tuesday, 10 a.m.

Body Composition Improvement Program Follow Up - Tuesday, 2 p.m.

Eggs impact history, Easter

It's the influence of the traditional spring rites that made Easter so egg-special. Myths coming down to us from an incredibly distant past have shown man's relationship with the egg to be a deep seated one. This is an old Latin proverb: Omne vivum ex ovo. This means "all life comes from an egg."

From ancient India to Polynesia, from Iran, Greece, and Phoenicia to Latvia, Estonia, and Finland, from Central America to the west coast of South America, there are reports of myths of the whole universe created out of an egg. Thus, it isn't unusual that in almost all ancient cultures eggs had been held as an emblem of life.

Later during the Christian period, it was believed that eggs laid on Good Friday, if kept for a hundred years, would have their yolks turn to diamond. If Good Friday eggs were cooked on Easter they would promote the fertility of the trees and crops and protect against sudden deaths. And, if you would find two yolks in an Easter egg, be sure, you're going to be rich soon.

(Courtesy of <http://www.theholidayspot.com/easter/history/>)

Hurlburt Field Chapel



Catholic Mass
Saturday, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 7:15 and 10 a.m.
Confessions: Saturday, 4:30 to 5 p.m., or by request

Youth: 5 p.m. Sunday
Religious Education: September - May
Protestant Services
Sunday, 8:30 a.m. (Traditional worship)
11:30 a.m. (Contemporary worship)
Religious Education: August - May
Youth and Singles groups available
Jewish Services (882-2111)
Sabbath services: Friday, 7:30 p.m., Eglin Chapel Center
Muslim Services (882-2111), Eglin Chapel Center
Jumua: Friday, 12:45 p.m.
For more information, call 884-7795.

One Christian's perspective on Easter

By Chaplain (Capt.) Brad Green
Base Chapel

This Sunday, most Christians in the United States will celebrate Easter - the most important day of the year for Christians. It's the day when we read the story of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. This event is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. In Luke 24:1-6a, we find the essential details of the Easter story:

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing, and as the women were terrified and bowed their face to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen.

Jesus was killed by the Roman government on a cross in Jerusalem only a few hours before the Jewish observance of the Sabbath day. In Jesus' culture, it was appropriate to bury people in caves. Large stones would be placed over the mouth of the cave to seal the entrance.

The bodies were prepared for burial in the cave by loved ones. It was customary for the bodies to be bound tightly with cloths and to be inundated with perfumes and spices. Ideally, this process would be done on the same day that the body was placed in the tomb.

In Jesus' case; however, this was not done because the religious beliefs of His followers wouldn't permit them to prepare His body for burial on the Sabbath Day. His followers had just enough time to take Him down from the cross on Friday, wrap His body in cloths and place it in the grave before the Sabbath.

When the Sabbath was finished, His followers in good conscience came back to the grave to pour the perfumes and spices on His body to complete the burial process. When they came back, they couldn't find Jesus in the tomb. While they were wondering what was happening, two angels appeared to them and informed His followers that Jesus wasn't dead, but that He had risen from the grave.

Christians believe that if Jesus arose from the dead, then He has the power to raise us from the dead when we die. His resurrection from the dead is an example of our resurrection from the dead and to illustrate death couldn't conquer Him. On Easter, we look back to Jesus' resurrection, and we look forward to our own resurrection.

At the movies

Prices are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children.
Movies start at 7 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

The Hurlburt Field Theater

is closed

until further notice

For up-to-date movie schedules, call Hurlburt Field at 884-7648 or Eglin Air Force Base at 882-1066.
For movie information, visit <http://www.aafes.com/ems/oonus/hurlburt.htm>.

SPEC OPS WARRIOR FOUND
CS/TRAVIS TRITT
577361
3 X 5.00

MILITARY MEDIA
CS/EXPERIENCE
572462
2 X 5.00



SOF Family Fest

By Jamie Haig
Public Affairs

Hundreds of Hurlburt Field service members and their families attended the first-ever Special Operations Forces Family Fest, March 19.

Static displays of almost every Special Operations aircraft were set up for families to get a closer look, while Airmen stood by to answer questions from curious event goers.

Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing commander, officially opened the event at noon.

"Welcome to the first and hopefully not the last SOF Family Fest," he said. "We felt it was important that the families know what we do for a living. The folks that keep our guys successful are you," he said to family members.

Immediately following his opening remarks, a Combat Shadow demonstrated the in-flight refueling of a PAVE LOW and the 23rd Special Tactics Squadron displayed fast-rope skills.

Robert Schultz, Air Force Special Operations Command, attended the festivities with his 4-year-old son. Christopher enjoyed sitting at the controls of the helicopter, the airplanes and the Navy gunner boat. He also liked the handouts from the 16th

Services Squadron booths, which included everything from crayons, coloring books and toothbrushes to stuffed toys.

Mr. Schultz summed it up, "I liked it. It was something to do with the family on a Saturday morning and not have to worry about the cost."

Further along the flightline, two children climbed onto the fire truck bumper as the fire-fighters pointed out the equipment and handed out hats. Another child got a parachuting lesson from her father who stood close by instructing her on the proper way to jump out of an airplane.

Nearby, a boy was visibly amazed at a snake held out to him at the Army Ranger booth. In keeping with the event's goal, all of them learned first hand what their mothers and fathers do on a day-to-day basis.

The 23rd STS had a vast display of specialized equipment and an assortment of vehicles for the kids to play in. The Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal had a collection of "things that go boom," as one little girl described. The camouflage face painting, temporary tattoos, food and drink booths were kept busy throughout the day.

The Air Force Honor Guard Drill Team amazed spectators with their routines and precision, and the

cultural dancers, dressed in their traditional attire, impressed spectators who gathered around. The 16th SVS had a plethora of prizes to give away to the children at the end of the day.

The event, which also highlighted the Month of the Military Child, featured the signing of the Child Abuse Prevention Act by Mrs. Mannon. The proclamation ensures the children and families of Hurlburt Field have the necessary assistance needed. Child Advocacy and Family Services were also available to answer any questions.

Making a special appearance at the event was the EC-130E/J, Commando Solo. Stationed at the 193rd Special Operations Wing in Middleton, Penn., it was one of the aircraft available to inspect. The primary purpose of the Commando Solo is psychological and information operations.

Other aircraft displayed at the show were the AC-130 H/U Gunships, the MC-130 E/H Combat Talons, the MC-130P Combat Shadow, the MH-53 PAVE LOW and the BT-67 Basler Turbo.

Overall, organizers were pleased with the results. In preparation for next year, Colonel Mannon has already invited Airmen and their families to submit ideas to make the next SOF Family Fest even better.

Camden McDonald, 5, gets his face painted at the SOF Family Fest face-painting booth. Many young family members enjoyed being painted up like a real Special Operations Airman.



Photos by Airman 1st Class Ali Flisek

Many of the SOF Family Fest guests enjoyed the booth displays that featured items unique to specific Special Operations career fields, such as weapons, protective gear and informational materials.



Joel Lopez, 4, (above) takes advantage of an opportunity to sit in the driver's seat of a military hummer.

23rd Special Tactics Squadron Airmen (left) fastrope from an MH-53 PAVE LOW the morning of the SOF Family Fest.

Sports

Shorts

Bocce tournament

A bocce ball tournament will be held at Resources for Human Development April 16 at 11 a.m. Resources Human Development is located at 625 Lovejoy Road. For more information, call Sandy at 862-6340.

Ultimate frisbee

Anyone interested in playing ultimate frisbee or soccer pick-up games on base during their lunch hour at the soccer fields behind the Aderholt Fitness Center, call Marty Mears at 884-3050.

Runway Rampage

Hurlburt Field will be hosting the Runway Rampage 5K run/walk to raise money in support of the Air Force Assistance Fund Thursday at 7 a.m. The registration is \$5, or \$10 to receive a T-shirt. All proceeds will be donated to the Air Force Enlisted Village. The first place male and female runners will receive an Army Air Force Exchange Service giftcard. Parking for the rampage run will be in the field at the south end of the runway.

For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Patricia Firmy at 884-1957.

Soccer meeting

The intramural soccer coaches meeting will be held 3 p.m. Tuesday at the Aderholt Fitness Center. Letters of intent to enter a team in the soccer program are due at his time. The season starts April 11. For more information, call the fitness center at 884-6884.

Youth ball

Youth baseball season kicks off April 5 at Field 4 at the Community Park. Opening ceremonies will start at 5 p.m. For more information, call 884-6355.

Golf clinic

The Big Hitters Golf Club is hosting a junior clinic April 9 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Eglin Golf Course. Entry is free for the first 24 to register for either times. Registration ends April 6. For more information, call Tony Childress at 884-6355.

Heading home

Justin Melvin, 46th Maintenance Squadron, rounds third base and heads for home as members of the 16th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron team try to scoop up the ball. The 16th AMXS team beat 46th Eglin Ammo during the first game of the tournament March 12. The varsity softball team hosted the tournament to raise money for the base team.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Ebony Pierre

'Hit the ground running'

By 1st Lt. Ryan Harrell
18th Flight Test Squadron

Members of the 18th Flight Test Squadron often find themselves "hit - ting the ground running" in their day-to-day tasks testing new equipment for Air Force Special Operations Command assets.

On the morning of March 6, they took the cliché literally by participating in the annual Seaside 5K and 1/2 marathon. Thirty-Six squadron runners volunteered in a race with more than 1,500 runners from the area.

The route was a mostly flat, but slightly hilly stretch of Highway 30-A, beginning and ending in the community of Seaside.

Weather conditions were cool with no winds, promising fast run times.

For some, like Chris Smith, it was a day of triumph in beating personal records.

He managed to beat running mentor and squadron run organizer, Ron "the runner" Landen, for the first time. Mr. Landen, a retired Reservist, wrote in a congratulatory e-mail, "Not only did he beat me, he drowned me."

He got me by 10 minutes. You say, 'so what, he beat an old man.' Well, it was the first time he beat me in a long run. He even came back and helped me finish. Thanks Chris."

Donald Pendergraft attempted his

first half marathon. He found the race to be an exemplary form of team building, and said he's "lucky to be alive and still moving forward" after finishing. He said motivation for this race stemmed from "squadron leadership and motivated runners throughout the squadron."

For others, it was an outing for friends and family.

In fact, two former members of the 18th FLTS family, 720th Special Tactics Group Operator Gary "mad dog" Maddock and Mike Duperier, 19th SOS commander, joined the team.

Current 18th FLTS commander and avid runner, Joe Maguire, participated because he was impressed by the motivation and desire of his troops to wake up early on a Sunday morning and compete in a long distance run.

Yet his motivation was eclipsed by his 9-year-old daughter, Sharon, who beat him across the finish line.

Other members also brought their families, including Bill Nix, who developed the "carry me, run, walk" system between his wife, Stephanie, and his two daughters, Ashley and Lauren.

Additionally, the race organizers treated everybody to a buffet of fruit, bagels and barbecue chicken.

Although not everyone received an award, everybody said they had a wonderful time and couldn't wait until next year.

Golf Standings

Team	W	L	Pct.
SVS	3	0	1.000
505 CCW	3	0	1.000
AFSOC	2	0	1.000
CMS	2	0	1.000
CES	2	1	.667
16 SOS	2	1	.667
6 SOS	1	1	.500
RHS	1	1	.500
MOS	1	1	.500
LRS	1	2	.333
SFS	1	2	.333
DET 1	0	3	.000
COMM	0	3	.000
25 IOS	0	4	.000

For more information, call the Aderholt Fitness Center at 884-6884.

AFAF fundraiser

In support of the Air Force Assistance Fund Hurlburt Field is having a nine pin no tap bowling tournament at Hurlburt Lanes Bowling Center April 8 at 1 p.m. The tournament is limited to the first 12 teams. Teams must consist of four to five people. Each person is encouraged to raise at least \$20; all pledges will be donated to AFAF. Bowling and shoes are free. For more information, call Master Sgt. Robert Love at 884-2695.